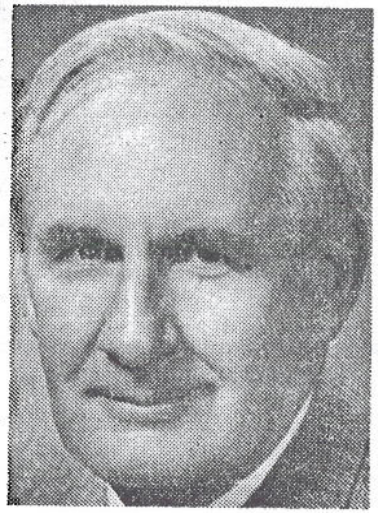
## After Studying Autopsy Records, 2 Doctors Reveal . . . 2-15-77 ENQUIRER

# JFK Might Be Alive Today—But for His Painful Back



**DOCTOR** James Weston: "The first bullet that struck President, entering at back of his neck, would not have been fatal."

If John F. Kennedy's back had not been bothering him on Nov. 22, 1963, he probably would not have been killed on that fateful day in Dallas, say two doctors who have examined the JFK autopsy records.

Because of his painful back, they say, Kennedy was wearing a canvas-and-steel corset that kept his body upright after the first bullet struck him, making him an easy target for another bullet, which blew out his brains.

"The first bullet that struck the President, entering at the back of his neck and exiting through the throat, would not have been fatal," explained Dr. James Weston, a University of New Mexico professor of pathology.

According to Dr. John Lattimer, head of the urology department at Columbia University, JFK didn't slump over after being hit by the first bullet "because he was wearing a special corset around his waist and hips that day.

"The corset was canvas, with steel strips in its sides. And around the corset the President had wrapped an elastic bandage, which also ran between his legs, like a mummy wrap," Dr. Lattimer said.

"When Kennedy was shot through the neck, he continued to sit up, his head and shoulders sticking up above the seat, a perfect target for another shot that took off the whole right side of his head."

Dr. Weston pointed out that because JFK wore the corset plus the bandage, all he could do was "hinge at his pelvis when he was struck in the back of the neck by a bullet. Then he bounded right back up again as his automobile accelerated."

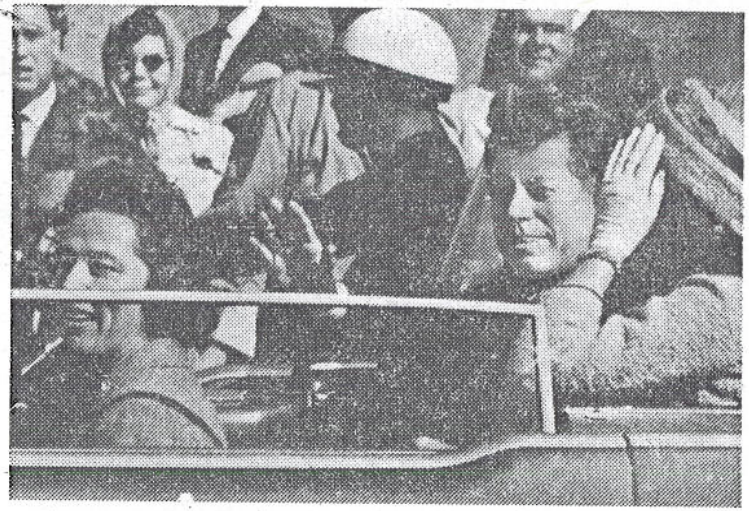
He said Kennedy's back injury dated back to World War 2, when his Navy PT boat was sliced in two by a Japanese warship. In addition, Dr. Lattimer said, JFK also suffered from atrophy of the adrenal glands, requiring him to take cortisone shots, which further weakened his back ligaments.

Dr. Weston said Kennedy trussed himself up that day in Dallas because "any change in climate towards dampness tends to aggravate back pain" — and it had been raining earlier that morning.

Dr. Cyril Wecht, coroner of Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), Pa., and former president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, concurred that someone who wasn't trussed up like President Kennedy was would have slumped over more.

And, he told The ENQUIRER, he agreed that the first bullet that struck Kennedy in the back of the neck would not have been fatal.

— *TOM SMITH*



**LAST RIDE:** President John Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline at his side, rides in Dallas motorcade just one minute before he was shot on November 22, 1963. In front are Governor and Mrs. John Connally of Texas.